

THE CLAIMS:

The claims in the instant application are set forth below.

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:

detecting a user request;

providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for single-user spending limits each spending limit being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the user request;

receiving selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries; and

tracking user spending during the time period associated with each selected entry.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a selection for a rolling time period.

3. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a user warning when the user spending exceeds the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of allowing the user to override the user spending limit.

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method for processing user programming request, comprising the steps of:

detecting a user request;

providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user each entry corresponding to a different time period, in response to the user request;

receiving selection of and a spending limit for at least one of the spending limit entries;

and

tracking user spending during each different time period for which a spending limit was received.

6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5 further comprising performing a check to see if a spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of providing a selection for tracking each different selected time period on a rolling basis.

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A system for processing a user programming request:

a user controller for entering a user request;

means for providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for single-user spending limits each spending limit being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the user request;

means for receiving selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries; and

means for tracking user spending during the time period associated with each selected entry.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus ~~method~~ for processing user programming request, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a user interface ~~controller~~ for ~~entering~~ receiving a user request;

means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user each entry corresponding to a different time period, in response to the user request;

means for receiving selection of and a spending limit for at least one of the spending limit entries; and

means for tracking user spending during each different time period for which a spending limit was received.